



Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pontybrenin

Heol Casllwchwr, Gorseinon, Abertawe, SA4 6AU

Ffôn / Tel: 01792 894210

E-bost / E-Mail: ygg.pontybrenin@swansea-edunet.gov.uk

Gwefan / Website: www.yggpontybrenin.com

Trydar / Twitter: @PontybreninYGG

Parent Focus Groups 2016/17

Summary of issues raised by Parent Focus Group members – Autumn term

Nursery & Reception - Meeting date - 1/12/16

1. The school yard is looking wonderful at the moment, with the new yard markings being a big hit with both pupils and their parents.
2. The Home / School contact books are proving very popular. However, further guidance on how to use them to their full potential would be useful.
3. The school's staff are great in responding quickly to general concerns raised by parents.
4. The weekly diary overviews are very useful, with the change to a Friday being welcomed.
5. Would it be possible for parents to receive regular overviews of the topics being covered in class in order to better support their children at home?
6. Could Nursery / Reception parents have an additional parents evening as they currently have less than the other classes.
7. Many parents were unhappy with the quality of the Colorfoto individual portraits recently. The photos seemed rushed. Also many parents would like a more contemporary class photo in the summer term as opposed to the traditional photos currently being taken.

Years 1 & 2 - Meeting date - 6/12/16

1. Parents appreciate the weekly diary overviews as they allow them to plan for the coming week.
2. The Home / School contact books are great and are very handy in sharing messages between the home and school. However, further guidance on how to use them correctly would be welcomed.
3. Christmas concerts have been wonderful again this year with parents wishing to thank the staff for preparing the children so well.
4. Although the Home / School contact books have a 'Termly Targets' page, not all pupils have had their targets noted as yet. (The books were late in being printed. Next term's targets will be recorded earlier)

Pennaeth / Headteacher: Mr Ceri Scourfield

Dirprwy / Deputy headteacher: Miss Elen Jones





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5. The exterior of the school is far more appealing and welcoming , with the yard markings and the 'yard maintenance day' having had a positive impact.
6. Steps leading to the Reception / Year 1 demountable classroom are very slippery in wet weather (the Local Authority have been contacted by the school requesting anti-slip paint for the steps).
7. A number of parents have raised questions regarding the teaching of pupils in the mixed classes.
8. The school has very supportive staff, and parents are very appreciative of the work they do in supporting their children.
9. Ensuring that all children are dropped off at school between 8.40am and 8.50am can be a challenge for parents who have more than one child.
Would it be possible to extend the 'drop off' period?

Years 3 & 4 - Meeting date - 8/12/16

1. The school yard is looking wonderful at the moment, with the new yard markings being a big hit with both pupils and their parents.
2. It's great to see children being taught and encouraged to develop neat handwriting, which often gets overlooked these days.
3. The Home / School contact books are proving popular. However, further guidance on how to use them to their full potential would be useful.
4. Great to see so many extra-curricular clubs being offered to pupils. Parents are grateful to staff for giving so freely of their time.
5. The School Council seem to be very active and are making a great contribution to the life of the school.
6. It's encouraging to see pupils completing homework without being overly concerned or stressed about it. However, would it be possible for pupils to receive project based homework where they can choose topics and be creative in how they present their homework?
7. There seem to have been less PE lessons recently. (This was as a result of the hall being used to practice for the Christmas concerts).

Years 5 & 6 - Meeting date - 7/12/16

1. Although the Home / School contact books are a very good idea, parents would like more of an explanation as to how they should be used correctly.

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2. Collecting children at the end of the school day can be difficult as the Junior pupils all exit the school via the bottom gate. Is there an alternative to this?
3. Could staff wear fluorescent jackets / bibs when escorting pupils to the buses? This would make it far safer and easier to identify pupils whilst walking near the turning circle.
4. When are the girls' junior toilets likely to be refurbished? (work to be carried out early in the spring term)
5. What is the Local Authority doing to address the issue of overcapacity at YGG Pontybrenin? Is there anything parents can do to help move things along? (following a large number of letters, e-mails and telephone calls to local councillors and the local authority, a letter written by Lindsay Harvey, Chief Education Officer, was sent to parents on 14/12/16).

Thank you everyone for all your comments. We will try our best to address the concerns you've raised in these Parent Forums and hope that you'll notice improvements in these areas soon. If however, you continue to have concerns or have any further comments or suggestions to make, then please do contact me at the school to discuss these further.

The next round of Parent Focus Group meetings will be held midway through the spring term.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ceri Scourfield
Headteacher

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